

2017 Wisconsin Federal Funding Conference

Session Descriptions

CEIS and Title I Schoolwide Set-Aside (Thursday)

This session will provide an overview of two very flexible funding options available under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act: the Coordinated Early Intervention Services (CEIS) and Title I Schoolwide set-asides. Under the Title I Schoolwide set-aside option, school districts with Title I Schoolwide schools are allowed to set aside a portion of their IDEA grant to support activities, not just special education, in a Title I Schoolwide program. Under the CEIS option, all school districts that receive an IDEA allocation are allowed to use a portion of their grant to fund academic or behavioral interventions for students without disabilities. This session will review how the amounts available are determined, how they are budgeted and accounted for, and how the funds may be spent. Additional time will be spent on the CEIS narrative and student reporting requirements.

Charter Schools – Creation, Governance, and Statutory Requirements (Wednesday)

This session will provide a general overview of charter schools including how charter schools are created, the governance structure of charter schools and the statutory requirements charter schools must adhere to. The session will also cover new charter school requirements under 2015 Act 55 such as the Authorizer Annual Report.

Common Audit and Monitoring Findings and the Risk Assessment Impact (Wednesday)

The first year under the new Federal Uniform Grant Guidance has now been audited by independent auditors and monitored by DPI. This session will provide an overview of common audit comments related to the new guidance and provide an understanding of how DPI determines who is monitored and what is reviewed including the monitoring of LEAs written procedures.

English Learners and Title III Implementation (Thursday)

Title III is a federal program that provides supplemental funding to schools for the purpose of ensuring that English learners (ELs), including immigrant children and youth, improve English proficiency and academic achievement. This session will provide participants with information on how Title III grant allocations are determined and when and how the funds can be used by school districts and consortia. Additionally, the speaker will highlight new requirements and opportunities with the passage of ESSA including key provisions related to allowable funding uses, common EL entry and reclassification procedures, and data reporting requirements.

ESSA's Maintenance of Effort Requirements and Title I Comparability Reporting (Thursday)

This session will provide an overview of how DPI calculates maintenance of effort (MOE) under ESEA for the 2016-17 fiscal year and under ESSA for the 2017-18 fiscal year. It will include elements that go into the determination and what the result of not meeting MOE entails. Additionally, speakers will discuss the Title I Comparability Reporting requirements.

ESSA's New Requirements for Equitable Participation for Private Schools (Wednesday and Thursday)

This session will provide participants an in-depth look at the new requirements for private school equitable participation under ESSA. The speaker will discuss the role of the Ombudsman, the new requirements for DPI, and the new calculations for proportional share under each title.

Federal Grants 101 (Wednesday)

Participants who attend this exciting session will gain a deeper and more meaningful understanding of Federal grants management. Grant terminology and concepts that apply to all federal grants will be presented in an entertaining and applicable format. The presenters will incorporate how WISEgrants has been designed to help subrecipients remain compliant with the many different rules and responsibilities.

Fiscal Management of Federal Funds for Independent Charter Schools (Thursday)

This session is intended for charter schools that are authorized by the independent entities identified in State Statutes 118.40(2r). This session will focus on elements of the federal Uniform Grant Guidance, State Statute 118.40(2r), and correspondence from the Department of Education. Topics will include the DPI risk assessment, required written procedures, conflicts of interest, and other items that may be unique to independent (2r) charter schools. Due to the small number of independent (2r) charter schools in the state, it is our hope to end with an open Q&A session so come with your questions.

Funding Regulations around Supporting Students Experiencing Homelessness and Students in Foster Care (Wednesday)

This workshop will provide historical legislative and programmatic background regarding ESSA-related McKinney-Vento Homeless Act and Title I Foster Care and Educational Stability provisions. Information will also be provided regarding implementation and operation of both programs and budget set-asides for activities under both programs.

IDEA & Title I Fiscal Compliance Open Lab (Thursday)

The hosts of WISEgrants Weekly will be available to provide individualized assistance to WISEgrants users. Bring any questions you have regarding WUFAR combinations, CEIS narrative questions, user access, claim preparation, subaward documents, assurances, printing, etc. Rachel, Mike and Matt will be happy to help!

IDEA Equitable Participation for Private School Students (Thursday)

School districts are responsible for setting aside a portion of their IDEA allocation to provide special education instruction and related services to students with disabilities who are placed in private schools by their parents. This session will review which students are the district's responsibility, how the amount that must be set-aside is determined, how the funds must be spent to meet the requirement, and how it is budgeted and accounted for through WISEgrants. The speaker will also review how DPI will begin monitoring this requirement in FY 2016-17.

Introduction to IDEA Funding (Wednesday)

Funds under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) are provided to school districts on an entitlement basis to support programs and services for students with disabilities. In general, the funds are to be used for the excess cost of providing special education instruction and related services.

This session will provide the participants with introductory information on how IDEA grant allocations are determined and when and how the funds may be used. There will be a focus on allowed costs and some common funding errors that are made. This session is designed for program and business office staff new to special education funding.

Introduction to IDEA Maintenance of Effort Requirements (Wednesday)

A complicated and complex topic, this session will break down the IDEA regulation that requires school districts to maintain local spending amounts on special education in exchange for the IDEA grant

funds. During these difficult economic times, it is vital that all school district staff understand this requirement and how seemingly unconnected decisions may impact a school district's IDEA MOE level.

Introduction to Title I, Part A Funding (Wednesday)

Title I is a federal program that provides funds to school districts and schools with high percentages of children from low-income families to support a variety of services to students struggling to meet state academic achievement standards. This session will provide participants with information on how Title I grant allocations are determined and when and how the funds can be used in the school district. Additionally, the speakers will highlight new requirements and opportunities with the passage of ESSA.

Introduction to Title II, Part A Funding (Wednesday)

Title II, Part A, Preparing, Training, and Recruiting High-Quality Teachers, Principals, and Other School Leaders Grant, is a federal program that provides funds to eligible school districts for training, hiring, and retaining skilled educators. All activities must be grounded on needs assessment, employ the evidence based strategies, and evaluated using research. This session will provide participants with information on how Title II, Part A grant funds can be used by the school districts under the new ESSA requirements.

Introduction to Title IV Funding (Wednesday)

Under the reauthorization of ESSA, significant changes were made to Title IV Part A (Student Support and Academic Enrichment Grant) and Part B (21st Century Community Learning Centers). In this session, presenters will provide an overview of each part, highlight the significant changes, describe the main components, explore allowable activities, share available resources, and discuss potential next steps. Time will be available for questions.

Investing Federal Funds to Unlock Opportunities for Students (Thursday)

Across our great state, we have some absolutely amazing kids and some powerful stories to tell about our strong schools. Wisconsin schools and districts are meeting the needs of increasingly diverse student populations, and they are investing in promising practices that are unlocking opportunities for all students. This general session will showcase some of these promising practices, will identify federal funding streams to support the practices, and will highlight resources to take home for your district.

Overview of all of the LEA requirements for Equitable Participation for Private Schools under ESSA (Wednesday and Thursday)

Many of the requirements of LEAs to ensure equitable participation for students attending private schools will not change. However, there is a greater emphasis on these requirements with the passage of ESSA. Attend this session to understand the requirements to ensure that your district is in compliance with the law in 2017-18.

Overview of the Every Student Succeeds Act (Wednesday)

On December 10, 2015, President Obama signed into law a reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). Previously referred to as No Child Left Behind (NCLB), the newly reauthorized ESEA is being referred to as the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). This new law makes many changes to key programs administered by DPI. This session will provide an overview the law and information we have to-date about what LEAs need to expect for the 2017-18.

Property and Procurement Regulations under the Federal Uniform Grant Guidance (Wednesday)

School districts receiving federal funds, including IDEA and Title I funds, must comply with federal procurement regulations when purchasing goods and services with those funds. This presentation will explain procurement and property management rules under the Uniform Grant Guidance, including new purchasing thresholds, required written procedures, and mandatory reporting. The speaker will address safeguarding property purchased with federal funds and steps for equipment disposal. This session will be relevant to both business and program area staff.

School Level Expenditure Reporting Requirements under ESSA – Open Forum (Thursday)

With the passage of ESSA, the federal reporting requirements will include the per-pupil expenditures of Federal, State, and local funds for each local educational agency and for each school. This session will serve two purposes: 1) Providing an overview of the requirement; and 2) requesting participants provide feedback regarding how this could be accomplished in Wisconsin (including barriers that we need to consider when designing such a collection system).

Special Education High Cost Aid Program (Thursday)

The High Cost Special Education Aid program is a financial resource for Wisconsin school districts, independent charter schools, CESAs, or CCDEBs serving students with disabilities whose needs are particularly costly. This session will cover the rules regarding reimbursement of eligible costs, how and who submits claims for high cost expenditures, common errors that occur with claim requests, and recent changes in state funding that impacted the program.

Supporting Best Practice in Family Engagement (Thursday)

A panel will present options to support best practice family engagement strategies. Participants will learn more about how schools are paying for research based engagement strategies, including Academic Parent Teacher Teams. The panel will also discuss low-cost, high-impact ways to support a shift from family involvement to family engagement, resulting in increased student achievement.

UGG Required Written Procedures – The Tale of the Business Manager and the Auditor (Wednesday)

As of July 1, 2015, all subrecipients of Federal funds - such as those awarded under IDEA and Title I - were to have in place written procedures regarding cost management and verifying allowable costs in relation to those funds. For many school districts, the procedures existed in some fashion, but the written part needed to be fulfilled. Join Dan Bush, Business Manager at the Lodi School District, and David Maccoux, CPA and Schenck Auditor, as they discuss both sides of the process – a district's development and implementation of written procedures and the auditor's role in reviewing and testing those procedures required under the Uniform Grant Guidance.

Understanding the Difference between Title I Schoolwide and Targeted Assistance Programs (Wednesday)

Title I schools are either Title I “Schoolwide” or “Targeted Assistance.” Title I Schoolwide programs have great latitude to determine how to organize their operations and the multiple funding sources available to them. This session will review the differences between the two programs and an overview of what guidance has been provided to date for implementation under ESSA beginning July 1, 2017.

Uniform Grant Guidance – the Quiz Bowl! (Thursday)

The conference will kick off Day 2 with table teams demonstrating their knowledge of the Federal Uniform Grant Guidance through a web-based quiz bowl. Bring your laptops, iPads, and cell phones as we encourage you to "go digital" to join in the fun. For those new to the guidance, the presenters will review the correct responses and explain why the topic was chosen for the presentation.

Wisconsin Uniform Financial Accounting Requirements (WUFAR) 101 (Tuesday)

This section will present basics on WUFAR and is meant for program staff or new business staff. All school districts in Wisconsin, including Independent Charter Schools must submit financial reports, including grant budgets and claims, to DPI using the state's established school district accounting coding system. This session will break down the codes so program staff can understand the structure and the importance of understanding this reporting requirement. Program staff will learn what pieces matter to the program and how having this knowledge, along with communication between the program and business office, will improve the school district's management of funds. If you are a seasoned fiscal staff person, this session will be an introduction to WUFAR and will provide information already well known to those staff who work with WUFAR on a regular basis. The session will consist of 40 minutes of presentation and a 20 minute hands-on activity in which teams are provided funding scenarios and WUFAR account strings, and participants must fit the pieces together. This is the same activity that was done at the 2015 Federal Funding Conference.

Wisconsin Uniform Financial Accounting Requirements (WUFAR) 201 (Thursday)

The 201 session will go a step further than the WUFAR 101 sessions, which went over the basic components of WUFAR and how they applied to the daily work of a program person. WUFAR 201 will provide more complicated WUFAR and funding issues and scenarios. It is meant for business office staff or seasoned program staff. Some of the topics covered will be accounting for contracted services, instructional versus non-instructional support expenditures, and coding the return of Federal funds to DPI. We will also go over accounting for instruction, support, and materials when purchased through a CESA. The presentation will be 40 minutes with a hands-on activity in which tables will put together WUFAR combinations based on expenditure scenarios.

WISEgrants Open Forum (Thursday)

Please join Rachel, Mike, and Matt for an opportunity to ask questions, make requests, provide feedback, and give suggestions about all things WISEgrants. Your input has been and will continue to be an integral part of WISEgrants development. It's been an exciting first year for the federal grants management portal and the WISEgrants team want to hear from you!